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**SELMEDAR
DATA SELECTION FROM
THE MEDAR DATA BASE**

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1 Introduction

The MEDAR CD-ROM is an electronic publication of the data collected in the Mediterranean and black sea in the frame of the MAST III/MTP II/MEDAR project. A software to extract data from the CD-ROM and to store them on the user computer, is also included on the medium.

This software, MEDAR, can select data according to several criteria:

- data type (Vertical profiles of CTD, Bottle, XBT-MBT, Thermistor chains)
- measured parameters
- quality flag
- period (year, month, date)
- geographical location
- ship
- source country
- cruise name or cruise identifier

The data can be extracted at the observed levels or at interpolated standard levels. Under three different formats which are either the MEDATLAS format, or a simple CSV format with separator which can be easily included in a spreadsheet, or Ocean Data View format, to be able to include the selected data into the ODV software (Schlitzer 2000, Schlitzer 2001).

In addition, MEDAR allows visualizing the vertical profiles.

Further information about the cruises, the data sets, the MEDATLAS format and the quality checks applied beforehand to the data can be found on the html documentation of the CD-ROM 1.

2 Supported platforms

The MEDAR released with the MEDAR CD-Rom is supported on the following environments :

- Microsoft Windows 95, Windows 98, Microsoft Windows Millenium,
- Windows NT, Windows 2000.

Hardware and software requirements for these supported platforms are:

Processor :

- Pentium 266 or above
- AMD-K6 or above

Memory :

- 2 Mb minim (64 Mb recommended)

Display :

- SVGA, 256 colors minimum

Additional device :

- CD-Rom drive (4 x speed minimum)

Browser for documentation :

- Netscape 3.5 and above
- Internet explorer 4.0 and above

3 Installing and running the software

No installation is required.

To run the software, insert the MEDAR CD-Rom (CD-Rom 2) in the CD-Rom drive, and click the "DATA EXTRACTION" choice.

Remark : If after a minute, the MEDAR first window is not displayed, try to run the automedar.exe file manually (double click on this file in the window Explorer utility).

4 Getting started

When you read the CD-ROM, the following window is opened (Fig 1.)



Fig 1. Window which is automatically opened when reading the MEDAR CD.

You have to click on the DATA EXTRACTION choice, this will run the MEDAR software which allows to perform data extraction from the CD-ROM. It opens the following window (Fig. 2.)



Fig 2. First window of the MEDAR software.

When you click on the language you want to use, the first screen of the software is opened.

5 Using the software

The different choices proposed to the user are presented as tabs on the screen (Fig.3).

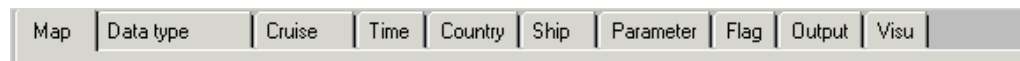


Fig 3. Tabs of the MEDAR software.

All the tabs and buttons will give you the different possibilities for selecting and extracting the data. Click on the tab you need, to open the corresponding window.

Before performing any data extraction, it is necessary to define at least the output directory.

On most of the buttons of the windows a context help is available.



5.1 The Map window

This window is to perform geographical selection of the data (Fig.4).

First, click the « Geographical selection » button to validate or invalidate the geographical criterion. If the « Geographical selection » button is not pressed there will be no geographical selection.

5.1.1 Zoom, Shore line and Bathymetry

The background of the map can be modified by zooming and displaying the bathymetry.


On the left hand side of the map use the  Zoom out,  Zoom in buttons for zooming. The shore line, the 200 and 1000 isobaths and the selected stations can be added or deleted from the map when clicking on the corresponding buttons on top of the map.

5.1.2 Plot of stations

On the top of the map the « stations » button can be unselected in order to suppress the plot of the stations on the map. This will improve the performance in case large selection.

5.1.3 Geographical selection

There are two ways for creating a geographical area :

- by drawing the area with the mouse, on the screen after clicking on the  button.

- by entering manually the coordinate and then press the «Create » button. The input format for the latitude is N/S99 99.99 and for the longitude E/W999 99.99 in degrees, minutes and hundreds of minutes (Fig. 4).

It is possible to create several geographical areas.

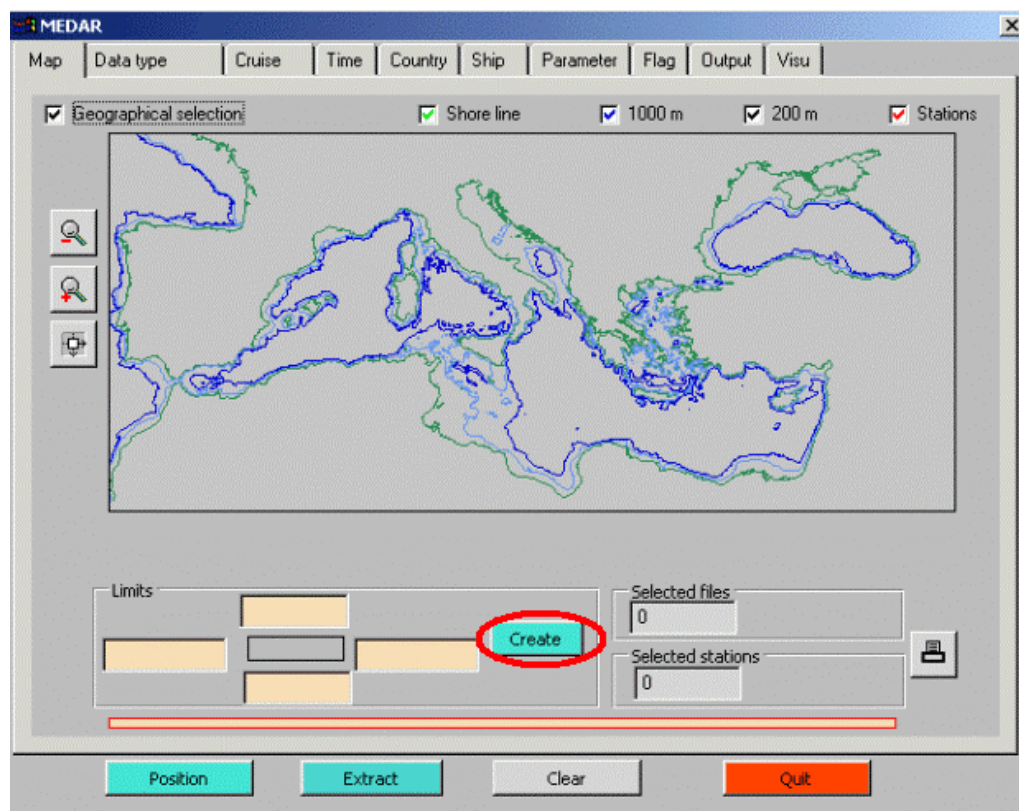


Fig 4. MEDAR Map window

5.1.4 Modification of the selection

You can modify an area by re-sizing it with the mouse or by changing manually the coordinates and then press the « Modify » button (Fig. 5).

You can delete an area by selecting it with the mouse and then press the Del key on your keyboard.

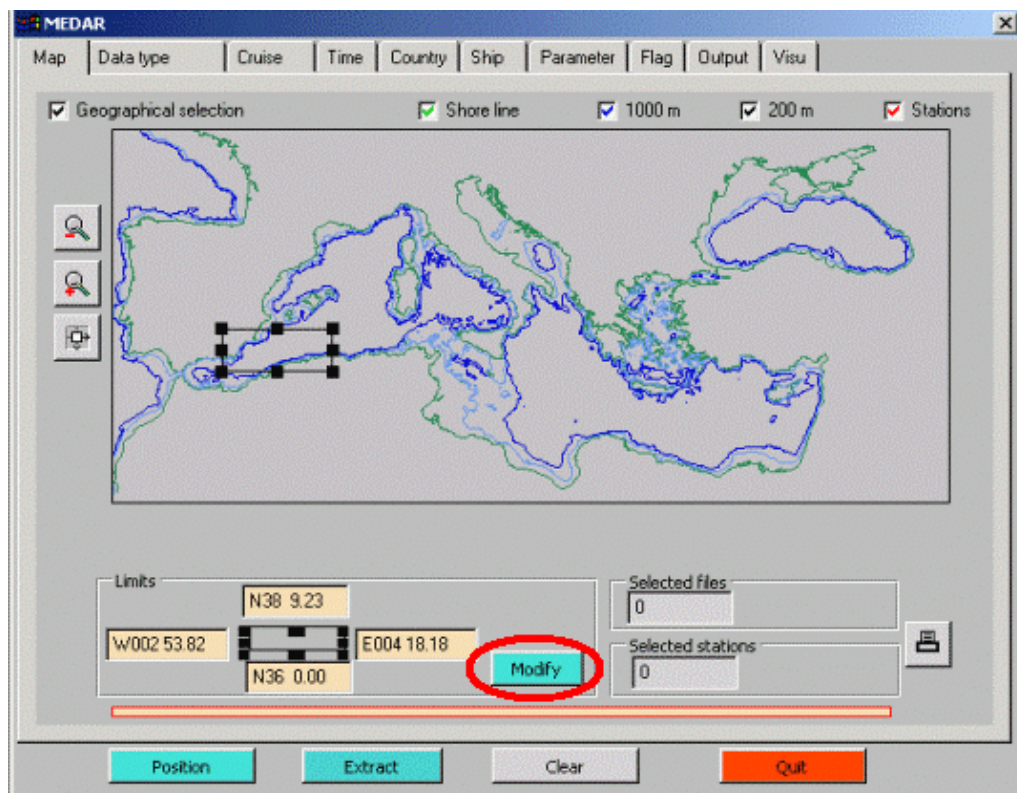


Fig. 5 – Modify a geographical area.

5.1.5 Result

Two counters give the number of selected files and stations. These counters are updated as the extraction progresses.

5.2 The Data Type window

This window is to perform selection on the data type.

First, click the « Data type selection » button to validate or invalidate the Data type criterion. If the « Data type selection » button is not pressed, there will be no data type selection (Fig. 6).

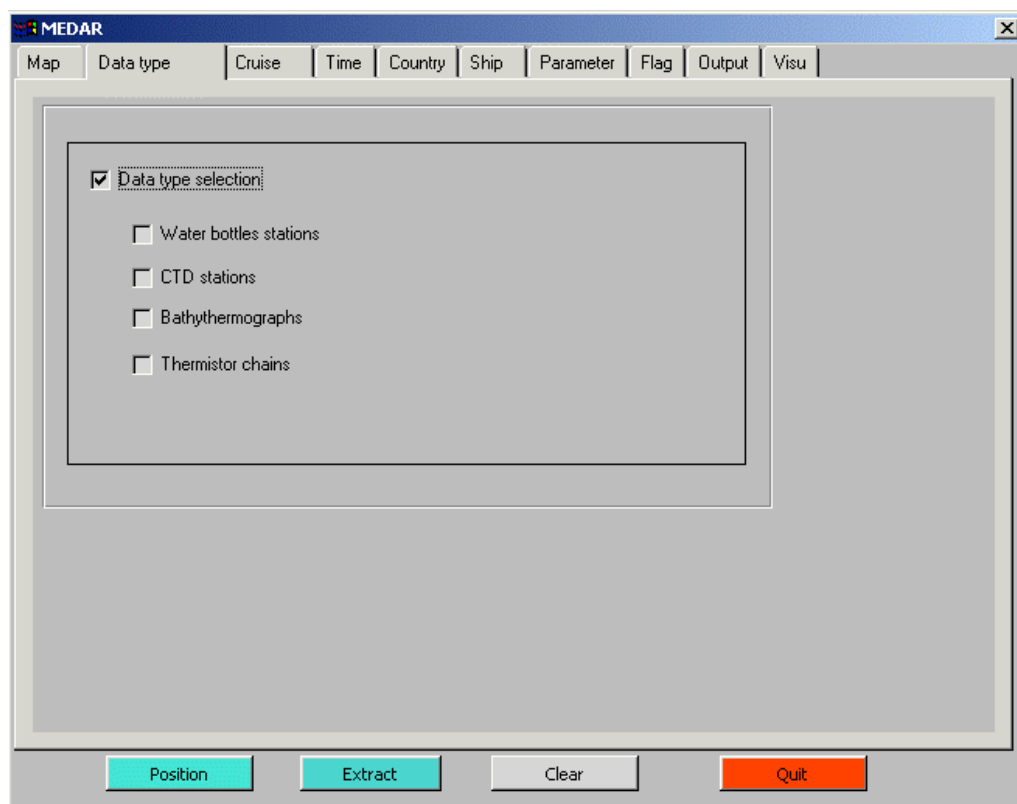


Fig. 6 – MEDAR Data type window.

Then, click on the button(s) corresponding to the data type you want to select.

On the following example only CTD stations will be selected on the CD-ROM (Fig. 7).

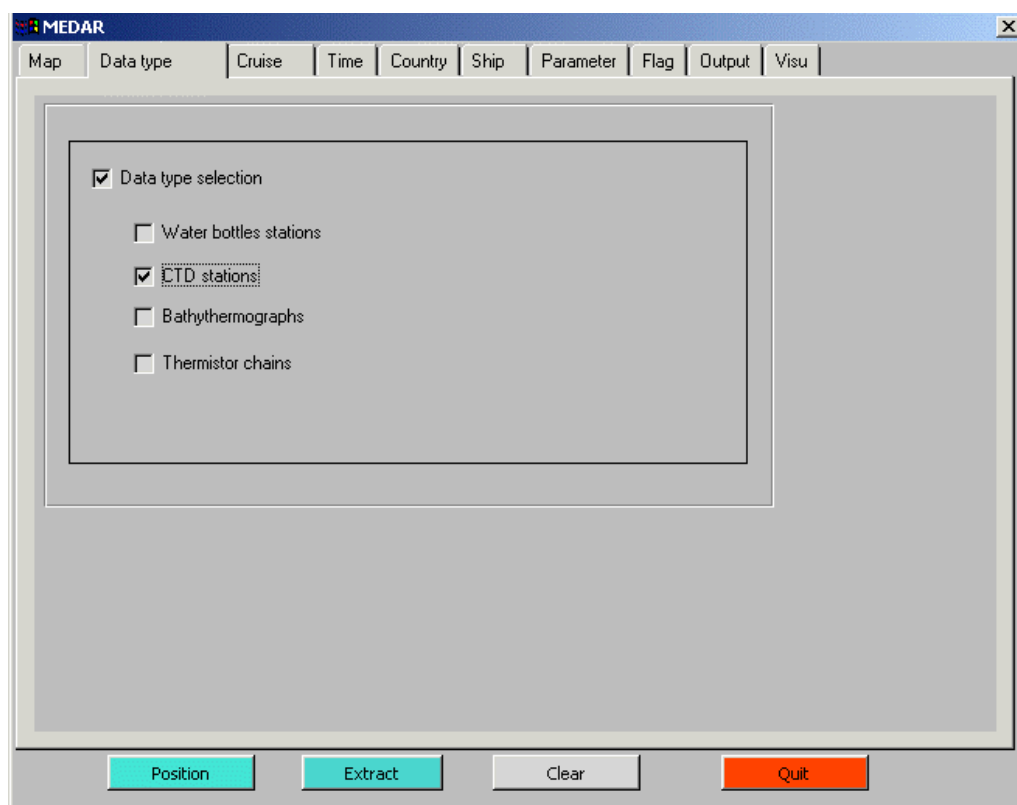


Fig. 7 – Selection of CTD Stations

The data types match the different sensors, which are :

	Sensor	Code
Vertical profiles	Water Bottle stations	H09
	CTD	H10
	Bathythermographs (XBT, MBT)	H13
	Thermistor Chains	H72


5.3 The Cruise window

This window is to perform selection on the cruise name or on the cruise reference (Fig. 8).

First click the « Cruise selection » button to validate or invalidate the cruise criterion. If the « Cruise selection » button is not pressed, there will be no selection on the cruise name or reference.

The selected cruises will be the cruises that contain the characters of the cruise name or the cruise reference fields.

The cruise reference is the MEDATLAS format reference of a cruise.

A cruise names list can be accessed by clicking on the  button. In this case, the « Cruise name » field is considered as a filter pattern to compute the list if the character '*' is used. For example : «ALBORAN* » in the field asks the program to list the cruise name beginning with « ALBORAN ».

The character '*' can only be used at the end of the character string.

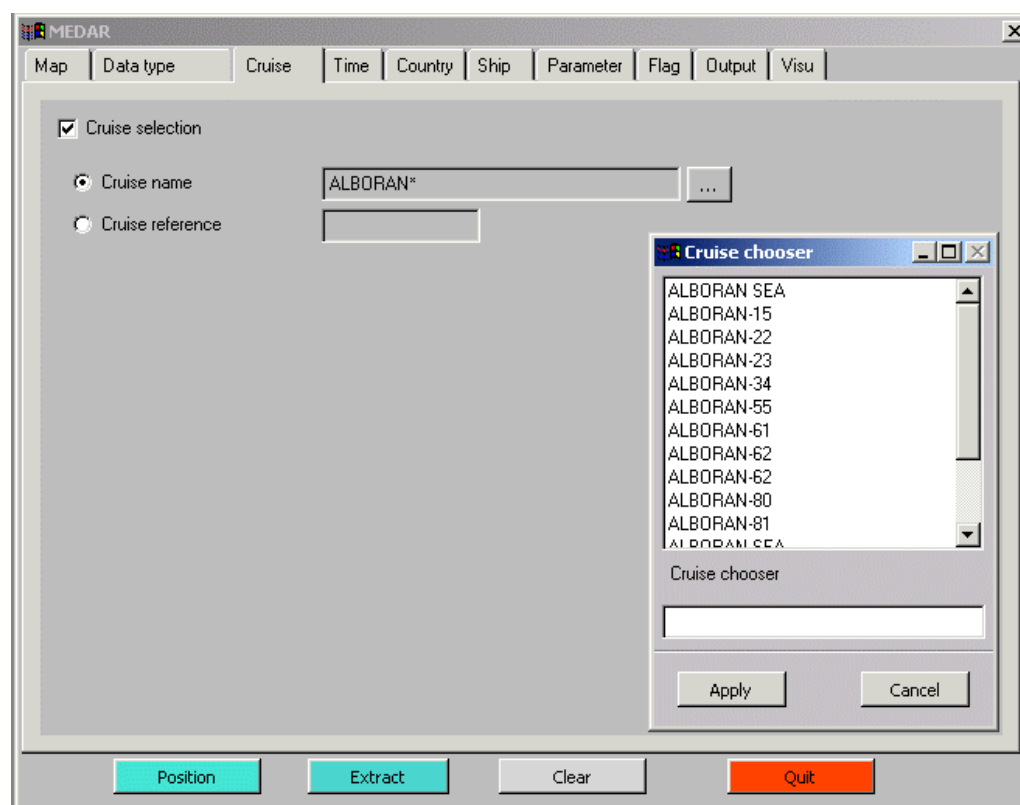


Fig. 8 – MEDAR Cruise window. Selection of data from the ALBORAN cruises.

5.4 The Time window

This window is to perform selection on the time period or the month of the **starting date** of the vertical profiles of the MEDAR CD-ROM (Fig. 9)

First, click the « Period » and/or the « Month » buttons to validate or invalidate the criterion. If the « Period » and the « Month » buttons are not pressed, there will be no selection on the time period of the stations.

If you want only the profiles starting during 1996 : enter 01/01/1996 in the « From » field and 31/12/1996 in the « To » field.

On the following example all the profiles starting in January and March will be selected.

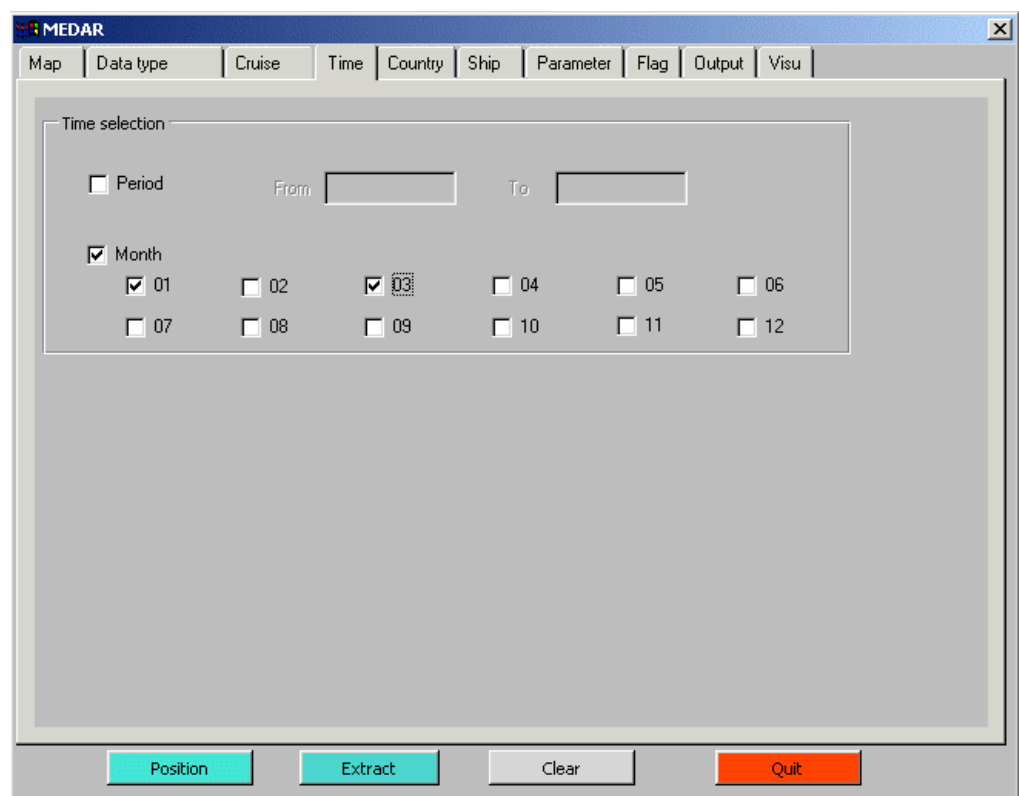


Fig. 9 – MEDAR Time window. Selection of all the data from January and March.

A combination of the two criteria is possible : you can select all the profiles starting in January and March 1996.

5.5 The Country window

This window is to perform selection on the country originator of the MEDAR data (Fig. 10).

First, click the «Country selection» button to validate or invalidate the country criterion. If the «Country selection» button is not pressed, there will be no selection on the country.

The list on the left hand side contains all the countries referenced on the CD-ROM sorted by alphabetic order of the country names. The GF3 country codes used in the MEDATLAS format are also given in the list.

On the right hand side is the list of the countries you have selected.

You can add or remove countries from the list you want to keep in the output files by using the right (add) and left (remove) arrows or by double clicking in the lists.

In the example below, all the cruises from France and Spain will be selected.

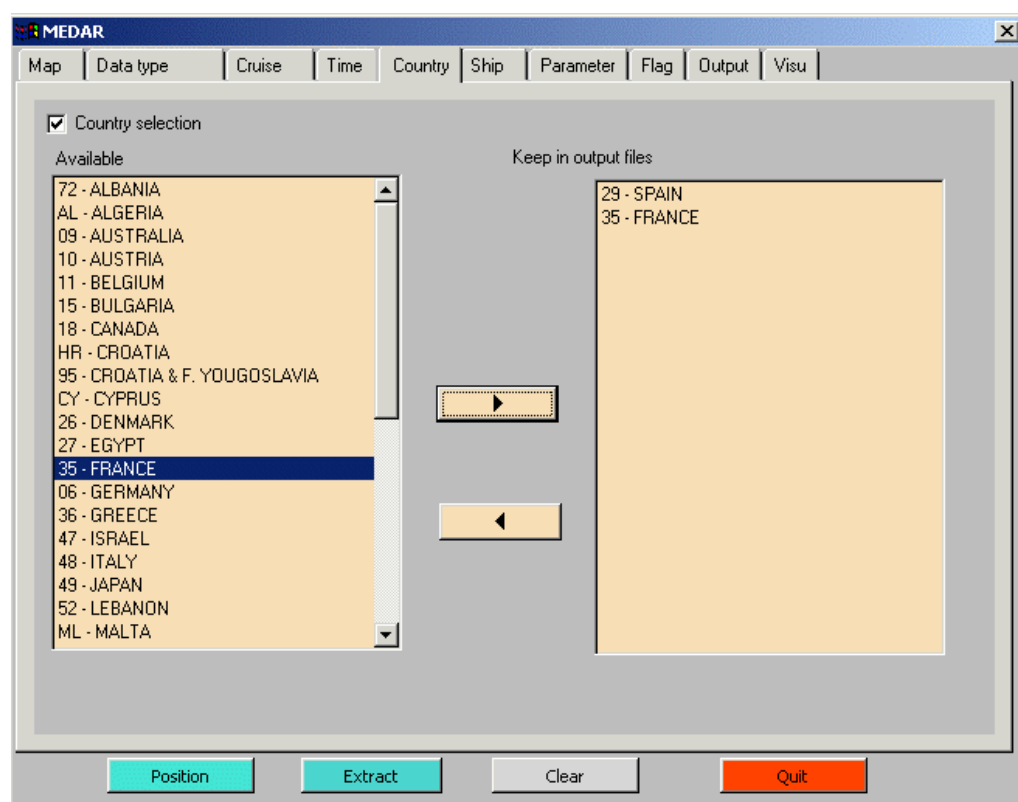


Fig. 10 – MEDAR Country window. Selection of data collected by French or Spanish institutes.

5.6 The Ship window

This window is to perform selection on the ship from which the MEDAR data were collected (Fig. 11).

First, click the « Ship selection » button to validate or invalidate the ship criterion. If the « Ship selection » button is not pressed, there will be no selection on the ship.

The list on the left hand side contains all the ship referenced on the CD-ROM sorted by alphabetic order of their codes (in fact, the two first characters of the ship code are the country code, so the ship are sorted by countries).

On the right hand side is the list of the ship you have selected.

You can add or remove ship from the list you want to keep in the output files by using the right (add) and left (remove) arrows, or by double clicking in the lists.

In the example below, all the cruises from the AEGAE0 will be selected.

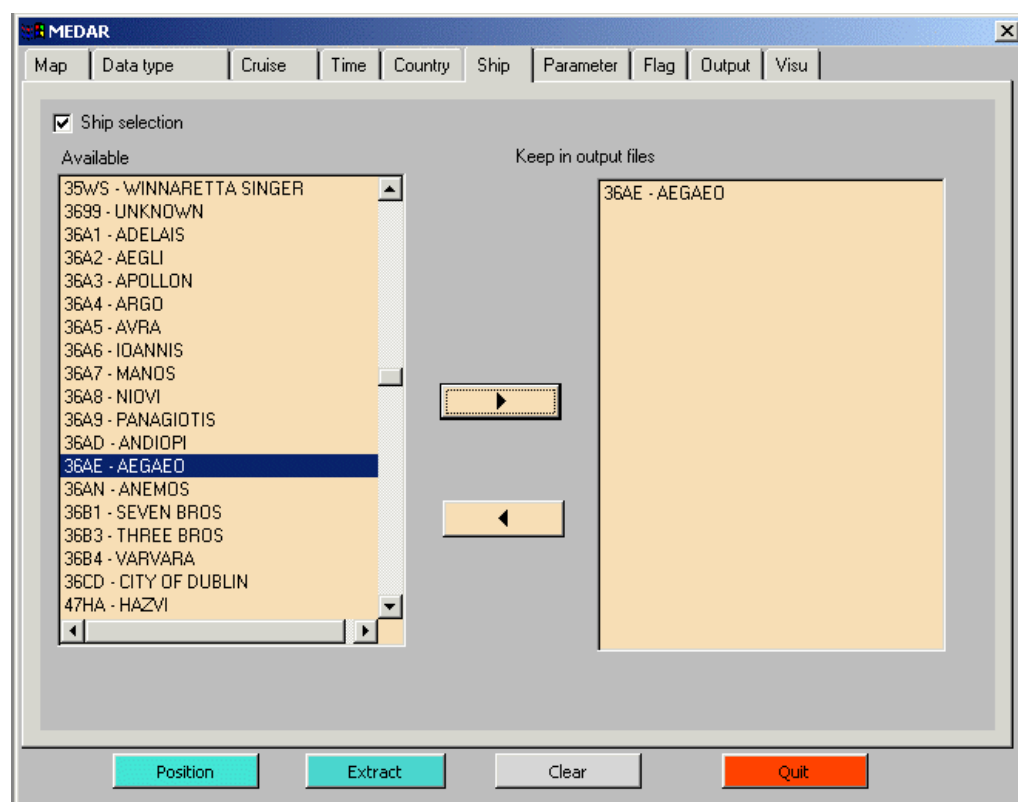


Fig.11 – MEDAR Ship window. Selection of data collected from the AEGAE0

5.7 The Parameter window

This window is to perform selection on the measured parameters to be selected (Fig. 12).

First, click the «Parameter selection» button to validate or invalidate parameter criterion. If the «Parameter selection» button is not pressed, all the parameters will be selected.

The list on the left hand side contains all the parameters (codes, names and units) referenced on the CD-ROM.

On the right hand side is the list of the parameters you want to extract.

You can add or remove parameters from the list you want to keep in the output files by using the right (add) and left (remove) arrows, or by double clicking in the lists. **As Pressure is the vertical reference, it is a mandatory parameter to select and you cannot remove it from the selected list.**

At the screen bottom, there is an additional button « Select stations which contains ALL the selected parameters » which means :

- if this button is checked, the extraction will select the files which contains ALL the selected parameters together,
- else if this button is not checked, the files which contains any combination of these selected parameters will be extracted (**this is the default option**).

In the example below, all the files with Pressure AND Temperature AND/OR Salinity AND/OR Dissolved oxygen in ml/l will be selected.

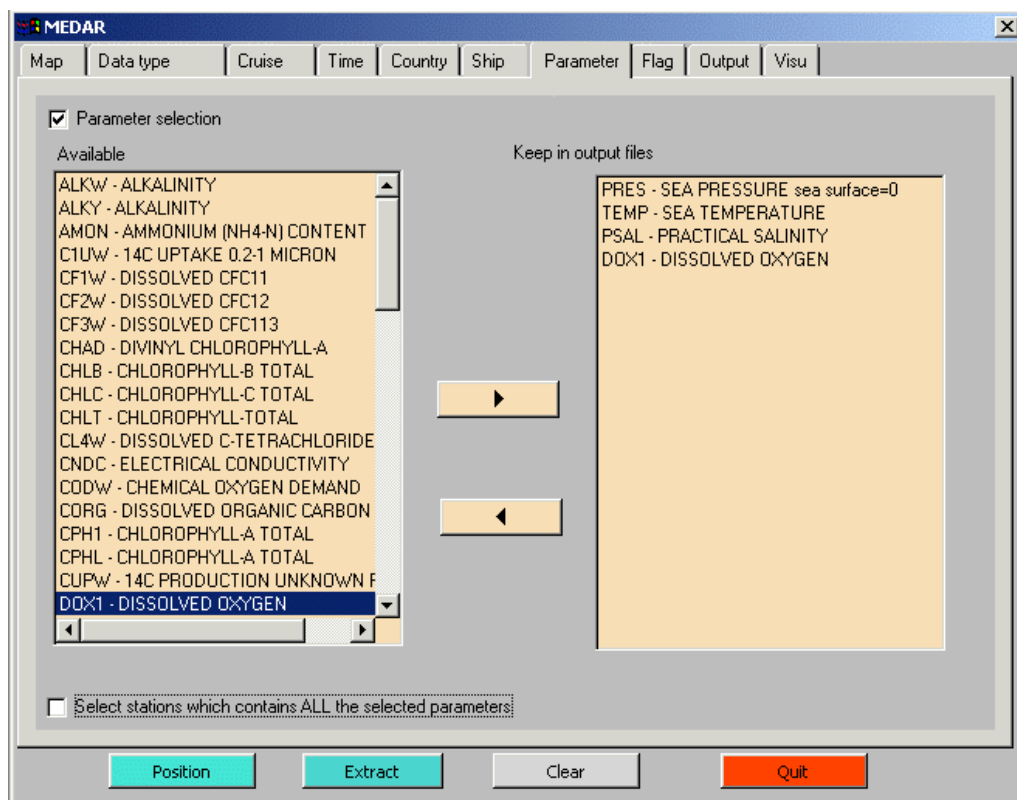


Fig.12 – MEDAR Parameter window. Selection of vertical profiles containing Temperature and/or salinity and /or dissolved oxygen in ml/l

If you need the files containing Pressure AND Temperature AND Salinity AND Dissolved oxygen in ml/l, check the « Select stations which contains ALL the selected parameters » button.

5.8 The Flag window

This window is to perform selection on the quality of the MEDAR data to be selected. **This option is important to allow any processing on the data with no detected anomalies (QC flag = 1).**

In the MEDATLAS format, the quality flags are found at three different levels :

- In the station header to qualify the Time, Latitude, Longitude and Depth of the station.
- In the station header to qualify the global quality of the profile and the global quality of one parameter in the profile.
- In the data to qualify each data point.

The MEDATLAS flag scale is the following :

Value	Signification
0	No Quality Control
1	Correct
2	Inconsistent with statistics (available climatologies)
3	Questionable (spikes)
4	False (out of regional scale, vertical instability, ...)
5	Modified during the QC (for the headers only : date, latitude, longitude and depth)
6, 7, 8	Not used
9	No data (default value)

The selection (Fig. 13) can be made on all the type of quality flags of the MEDATLAS format.

The screenshot shows the MEDAR Flag window for vertical profiles. The window has tabs for Map, Data type, Cruise, Time, Country, Ship, Parameter, Flag, Output, and Visu. The 'Flag' tab is active. It shows 'Quality flag selection' with three sections: 'Station Header Flags to keep' (Time, Latitude, Longitude, Depth), 'Global Flags to keep' (Profil, Parameters), and 'Data Flags to keep'. Each section has checkboxes for values 0 through 8. In the 'Station Header Flags to keep' section, Time, Latitude, and Longitude are checked for values 1 and 5. In the 'Data Flags to keep' section, value 1 is checked. At the bottom are buttons for Position, Extract, Clear, and Quit.

Fig.13 – MEDAR Flag window for vertical profiles . Selection is allowed on all the quality flags of the MEDATLAS format.

In the example of Fig. 13, the data selected will have :

- Flag equal to 1 (good) or 5 (modified during the QC) for Time, Latitude and Longitude of the stations.

- Any values for the quality flag of the bottom depth of the stations.
- Any values for the Global profile and Global parameter quality flags.
- Flag equal to 1 (good) for the measured parameters.

The selected flag for the reference parameter (PRES) is always 1. The data with quality flag on Pressure different from 1 will not be selected through the flag window.

5.9 The Output window

This window is used to describe the output of the selection from the CD-ROM :

- The **Output format**
- The **Output type** (observed levels or interpolated to standard levels)
- The **Output directory**

A lot of possibilities are available for selection of vertical profiles (Fig. 14).

Before executing the extraction, the output format, the output type and the output directory **MUST** be entered.

The MEDATLAS format and observed data as output type are the default values.

5.9.1 The Output Format :

You can choose between 3 output formats (Fig. 14):

- MEDATLAS format (auto-descriptive ASCII format, see the html documentation for a complete description).
- CSV (Comma Separated Values) format : a simple format with semicolons separator which can be easily included in a spreadsheet .

Column number	Content	Format
1	Date	YYYYMMDD
2	Time	HH24MI
3	Latitude	N or SDD MM.mm
4	Longitude	E or WDDD MM.mm
5	Pressure	In decibars
6	Flag of the pressure	MEDATLAS flag scale
7	First parameter	
8	Flag of the first parameter	MEDATLAS flag scale
	
N	Parameter N	
N+1	Flag of parameter N	MEDATLAS flag scale

- ODV (Ocean Data View) text format, to be able to import the

extracted data into the ODV software that is available for Windows on the CDROM.

Column number	Content	Format
1	Cruise name	Maximum 20 characters
2	Station number	
3	Data type	C for CTD, XBT or B for Bottle
4	Station date	MM/DD/YYYY
5	Latitude	North latitude in decimal degrees
6	Longitude	East longitude in decimal degrees
7	Bottom depth	
8	Pressure	In decibars
9	Flag of the pressure	ODV flag scale
10	First parameter	
11	Flag of the first parameter	ODV flag scale
...	
N	Parameter N	
N+1	Flag of parameter N	ODV flag scale

The ODV flag scale is the following :

0 = Good, 1 = Unknown, 4 = Questionable, 8 = Bad

5.9.2 The Output type

The observed data can be extracted from the CD-ROM, or the data can be interpolated to standard levels (Fig. 14). The default standard levels are those defined in the MEDATLAS climatology, but it is possible to add or to suppress some levels using the buttons « Add level » and « Remove level ». At least two standard levels are required to perform the interpolation calculation. If some levels are added, they are automatically ordered.

- The button « Extrapolate at first standard level (surface) » must be checked only if the first standard level is near the surface. It gives the possibility for extrapolating the first (upper) level, when there are data between the second level and the surface or at the second level but not at the first level. In that case the surface value is assigned to the first observed value, if the corresponding depth do not exceed the second standard level.

This possibility allows to do not reject the profiles for further computations, like the geopotential, if the observations begin near the surface.

For example with respectively 0 and 5 dbar as standard levels, and no data at 0 dbar, an observed value at 3 dbar will be assigned at 0 dbar. However if no data exists above 5.1 dbar, the two first levels will keep the default value.

The surface extrapolation requires to have selected at least two standard levels.

- If the button is not checked, no extrapolation is made at the upper level.

The button « Extrapolate at first standard level (surface) » is checked by default when you start MEDAR software.

When you want to extract data interpolated to standard levels, **you must only keep the data flag to good**, through the « Flag » window.

5.9.3 The Output directory

This is used to describe the directory where the extracted files are to be loaded.

It is possible to copy all the extracted files in one directory or to keep the same directory tree than the one of the CD-ROM. If the output directory does not exist, the software creates it.

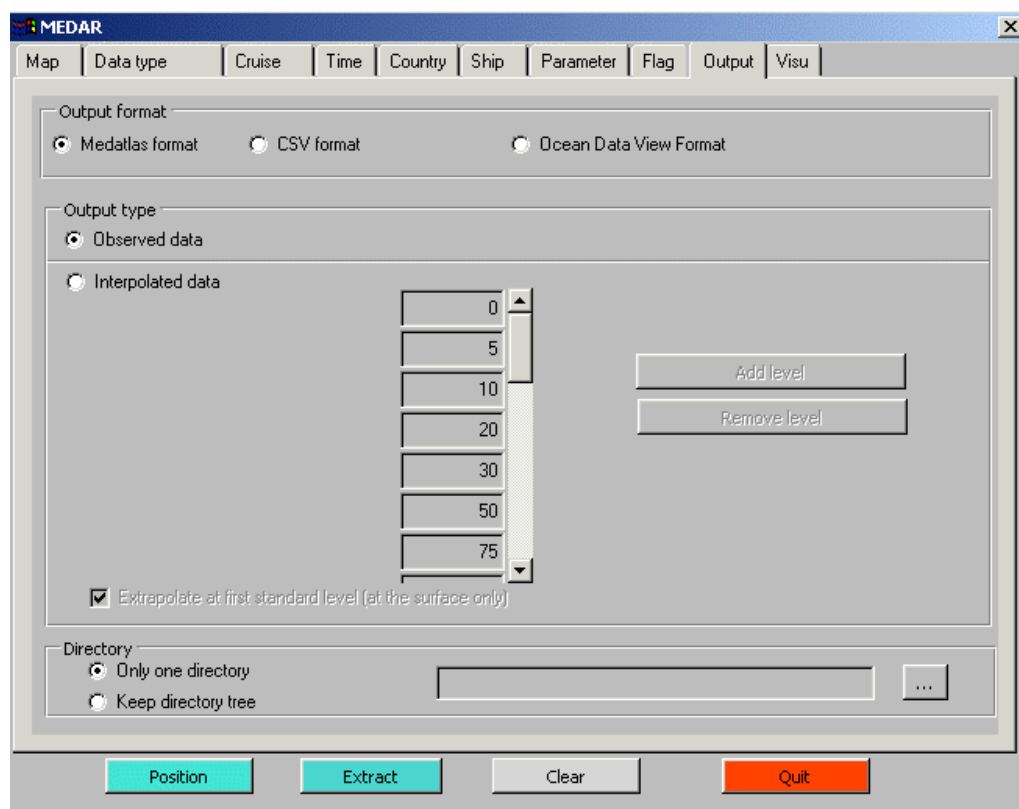


Fig. 14 – MEDAR Output window for vertical profiles. 3 output formats available, data observed or interpolated to standard levels.

5.10 Running the Extraction

Two possibilities are offered : either the extraction of data and plotting of the positions, or the simple plotting of the positions.

Once all the selection criteria and the output description are captured, press the « Extract » button to run the plotting and the extraction of data from the MEDAR CD-ROM, or the “Position” button to run only the plotting of data from the MEDAR CD-ROM.



In both cases, the displayed screen during the extraction is the geographical map (Fig.15) : the number of extracted files and stations are respectively displayed in the fields «Selected files » and « Selected stations ». The location of the stations is drawn on the map as the extraction progresses. During the extraction and the plotting it is possible to use the Zoom buttons.

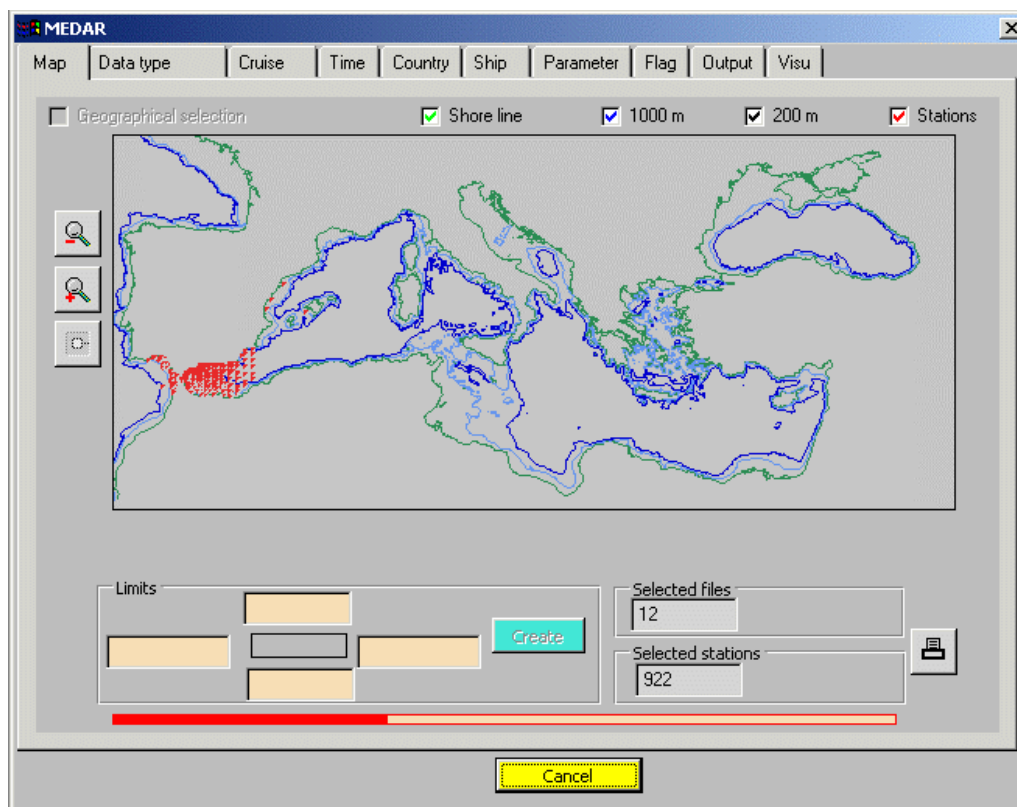


Fig. 15 – MEDAR Map window during the extraction

Pressing the « Cancel » button aborts the extraction.

If you need to do another selection you can delete all the previous criteria by pressing the « Clear » button. Everything is deleted from all the windows except the output directory of the Output window.



5.11 The Visu window

This window is used to visualize the vertical profile data that have been extracted from the CD-ROM (Fig. 16, 18 and 19).

This window is divided into two sub-windows :

- The Data sub-window : used to described and select the data you want to plot (Fig. 16).
- The Graph sub-window : used to plot the selected data (Fig. 18, 19 and 20).

5.11.1 The data sub-window

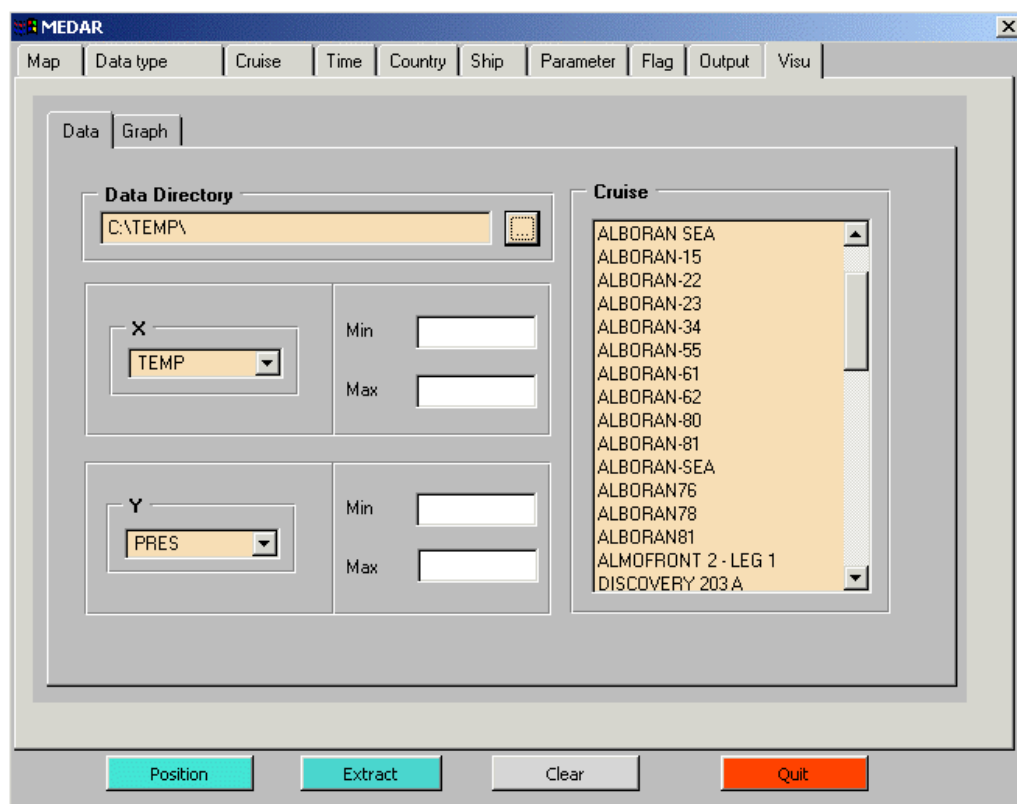



Fig. 16– MEDAR Visu window. Data sub-window

5.11.1.1 Selecting the data

The data directory is the directory where are the vertical profiles to plot. The files to be plotted **must be at the MEDATLAS format**. You must select the directory by using the  button. Once you have selected the directory you need, all the cruises found in it are listed in the cruise list.

You need to select at least one cruise that you want to plot in the cruise list. You can select several cruises in the list using the Shift key of your keyboard (for consecutive selection) or Ctrl key of your keyboard (for non consecutive selection) (Fig. 17).

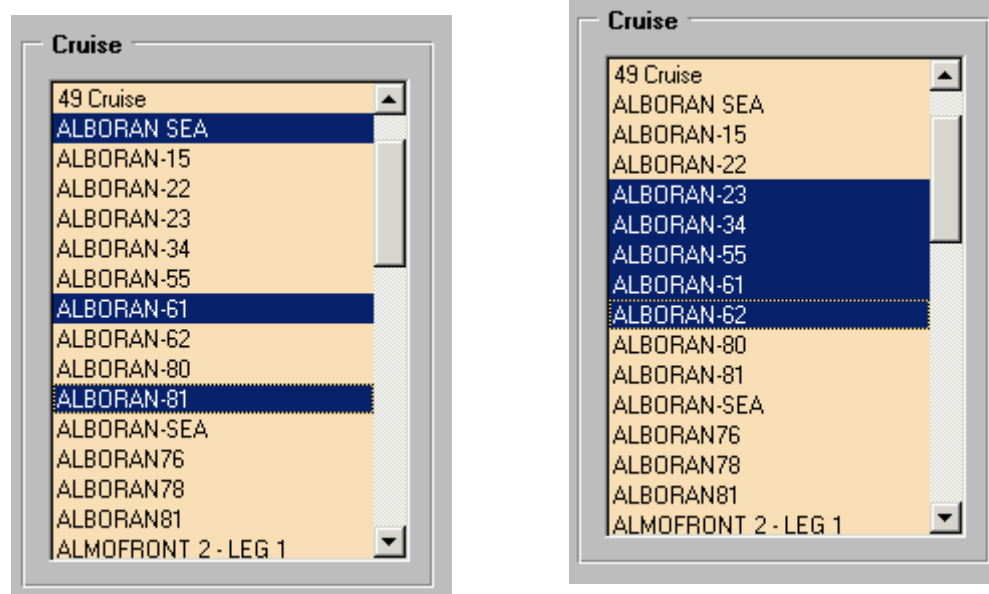



Fig . 17– Non consecutive cruise selection with the Ctrl key, and consecutive cruise selection with the Shift key .

5.11.1.2 *Selecting the parameters to plot*

The X and Y parameters of the graph can be selected in a list using the down black arrows . By default, pressure is given as the Y parameter, but any others from the list can replace it.

5.11.1.3 *Defining the scale of the graph*










The Min and Max fields can be used to fix the minimum and maximum values of X, Y parameters if you do not want to use the default ones (which are equal to the minimum and maximum X and Y values in the whole selected data set).

PRESSURE must be entered with negative values.

5.11.2 The graph subwindow

Once the data you want to plot have been selected, you can access to the graph sub-window (Fig. 18). The first time you enter this window, nothing is plotted, you have to use the buttons on the right hand side of the screen to perform the plot.

The signification of the buttons is the following:

Button	Role
	Plot the selected data.
	Interrupt the plotting.
	If this button is pressed : superposed plotting of the profiles when pressing  . This is the default option.
	If this button is pressed : waterfall plot of the profiles when pressing  . In that case you must defined the shift from one profile to another. This shift is given into the parameter unit (Fig. 19 and Fig. 20). You can also add the station numbers on the plot (Fig. 20).
	Zoom in.
	Zoom out.
	Initial plot.

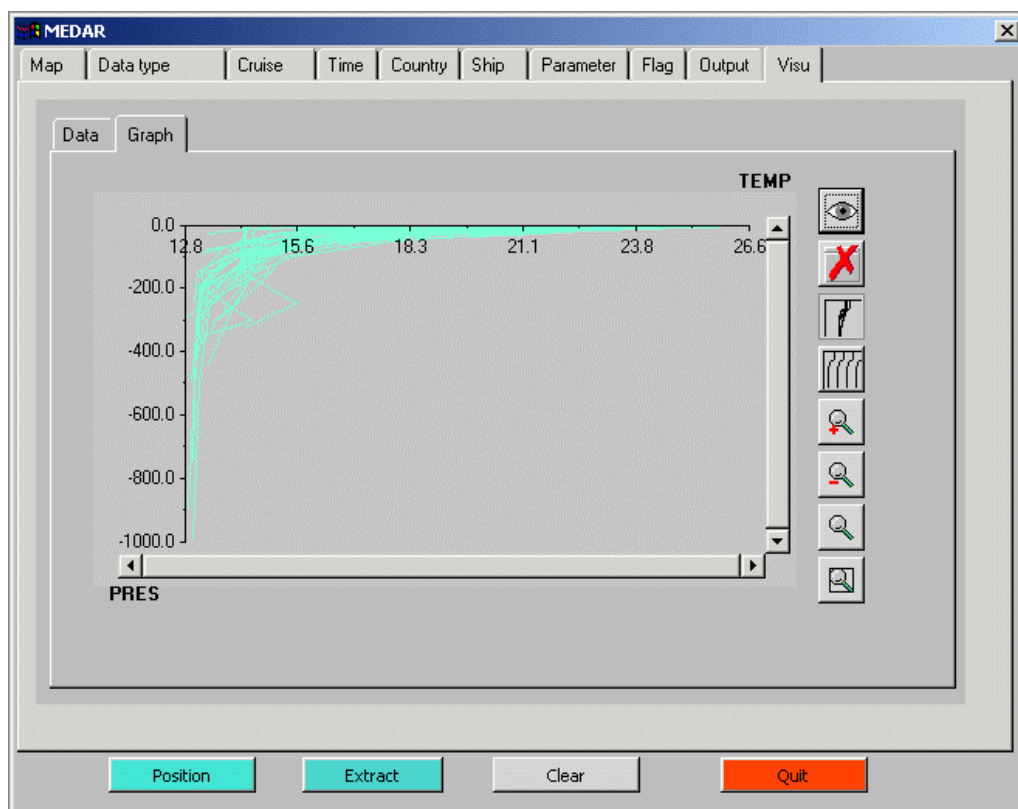
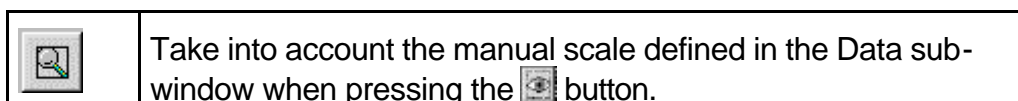


Fig. 18 – MEDAR Visu window. Graph sub-window. In this example the profiles are superposed.

You can see on this graph that Pressure is given in negative values : for the plotting, the values, in decibars in the files, are multiplied by -1 .

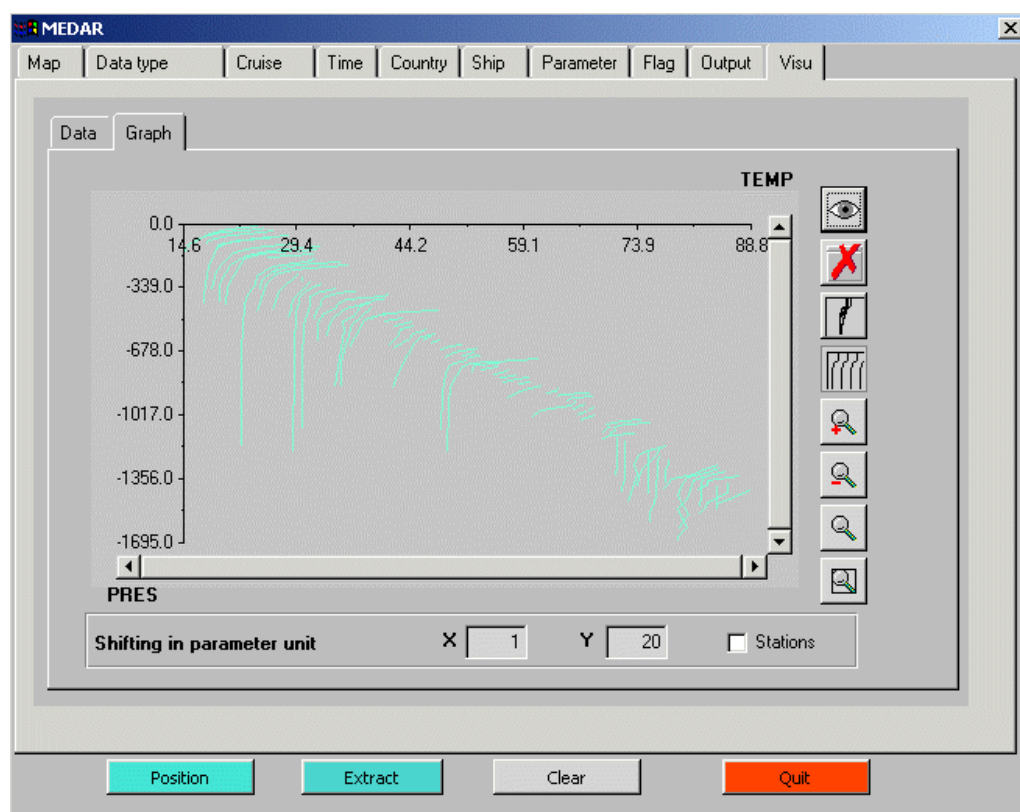


Fig. 19 – MEDAR Visu window. Graph sub-window. In this example the profiles are in a waterfall plot with 1 CELCIUS degree shift on the X scale and 20 decibars Shift on the Y scale.

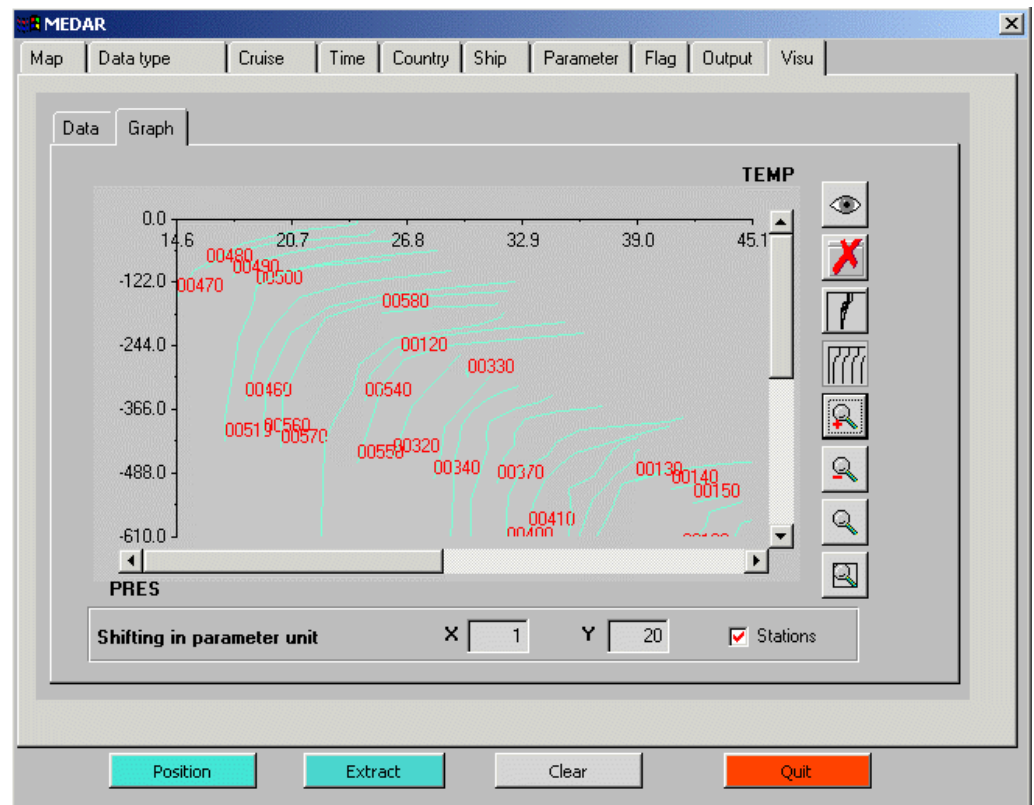



Fig. 20 – MEDAR Visu window. Graph sub-window. In this example the profiles are in a waterfall plot and the station numbers are plotted also. The Zoom-In button has been pressed. It is possible to use the horizontal and vertical scroll bars to see all the profiles.

5.12 Printing of the map

You can print the map by pressing the « Printer » button : , on the Map window. The map is printed on the default printer.

It is just a draft print corresponding to a snapshot of the map displayed on the screen. No options are available for printing.

6 REFERENCES

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